

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
MIAMI DIVISION

CASE NO.: 1:23-cv-21491

JESUS HERNANDEZ,

Plaintiff,

v.

HEALTHCARE REVENUE RECOVERY
GROUP, LLC,

Defendant.

**DEFENDANT, HEALTHCARE REVENUE RECOVERY GROUP, LLC'S PETITION
FOR REMOVAL WITH SUPPORTING MEMORANDUM OF LAW
and demand for Jury Trial**

COMES NOW, the Defendant, Healthcare Revenue Recovery Group, LLC ("HRRG"), by and through its undersigned counsel, and respectfully petitions this Honorable Court for removal of the above-styled civil action from the County Court, in and for Miami-Dade County, Florida, to the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, Miami Division, and states as follows:

1. Defendant, Healthcare Revenue Recovery Group, LLC is the named Defendant in a civil action brought against it in the Circuit Court, in and for Miami-Dade County, Florida, styled: *Jesus Hernandez, v. Healthcare Revenue Recovery Group, LLC, Case No.: 2023-029598-SP-25*. A copy of the Complaint served in that action, in addition to all process and pleadings served upon Defendant, will be docketed separately by the Clerk.

2. That the aforesaid action was filed with the Clerk of the County Court in Miami-Dade County and service of process of said Summons and Complaint, was served upon the

Defendant, Healthcare Revenue Recovery Group, LLC on April 5, 2023.

3. That the controversy herein between the Plaintiff and Defendant is a controversy based upon consumer protection rights created by and enforced through federal statutes. In this case, Plaintiff attempts to bring a pleading for alleged violations of the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (“FDCPA”).

4. That the above-described action is a civil action of which this Court has original jurisdiction under the provisions of Title 28, United States Code, §1331, and is one which may be removed to this Court by the Defendant/Petitioner pursuant to the provisions of Title 28, United States Code, §1441(a), in that it is a civil action based upon a federal question over which this Court has original jurisdiction. Further, this Petition for Removal is being submitted to this Court within 30 days after service on Defendant, Healthcare Revenue Recovery Group, LLC of the original Complaint, and is, therefore, timely pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1446(b).

WHEREFORE, Defendant, Healthcare Revenue Recovery Group, LLC respectfully requests that this Honorable Court enter its Order removing the entire case from the County Court, in and for Miami-Dade County, to the United States District Court, Southern District of Florida, Miami Division.

MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT OF ITS PETITION FOR REMOVAL

Statement of the Case and Facts

The instant suit is a civil action that includes a federal question, specifically, a claim that the Defendant, Healthcare Revenue Recovery Group, LLC (“HRRG” or “Defendant”) allegedly violated Plaintiff’s consumer protection rights under the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, namely, 15 U.S.C. Section 1692e. The Complaint seeks an award of damages against the HRRG for alleged actions taken during the course of debt collection attempts by the Defendant

against the Plaintiff, which are asserted to violate the FDCPA. Plaintiff seeks statutory, actual, and/or punitive damages and seeks judgment for those damages against HRRG for this alleged conduct.

Federal Court Jurisdiction

This Court has jurisdiction of this case pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331. Section 1331 states as follows:

“§1331. Federal question.

The federal district courts shall have original jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the Constitution, laws or treaties of the United States.

The complaint herein raises a federal question and satisfies the jurisdictional requirements of 28 U.S.C. §1331. This Honorable Court, therefore, has original jurisdiction of this civil action.

Removal

This is an action which may properly be removed to this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1441 which states in pertinent part as follows:

“Except as otherwise expressly provided by act of Congress, any civil action brought in a state court of which the district courts of the United States has original jurisdiction, may be removed by the defendant or the defendants, to the district court of the United States for the district and division embracing the place where such action is pending . . . ”

Given that this action is one over which the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, Miami Division, would have original jurisdiction, this case may properly be removed by Defendant pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1446(a) which provides:

“A defendant or defendants desiring to remove any civil action or criminal prosecution from a state court shall file in the district court of the United States for the district and division within which such action is pending a Notice of Removal, signed pursuant to Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and containing a short and plain statement of the grounds for removal, together with a copy of all

process, pleadings and orders served upon such defendant or defendants in such action.”

In the instant suit, Defendant, Healthcare Revenue Recovery Group, LLC has filed a Notice which complies with 28 U.S.C. §1446(a), in that it sets forth facts that show that this Court has original jurisdiction and that this case is subject to removal.

Timeliness of Removal

28 U.S.C. §1446(b) requires that a Notice of Removal in a civil action or proceeding shall be filed within thirty (30) days after receipt by Defendant, through service or otherwise, of a copy of the initial pleading setting forth the claim for relief upon which the action or proceeding is based. Additionally, that each defendant shall have thirty (30) days after receipt by service on that defendant of the initial pleading or summons to file the notice of removal. Here, the original Complaint was filed with the Court and subsequently served upon Healthcare Revenue Recovery Group, LLC on April 5, 2023. Accordingly, this Petition for Removal is being submitted to this Court less than thirty (30) days from service of the Complaint on Defendant, Healthcare Revenue Recovery Group, LLC.

Supplemental Jurisdiction

This Court has the discretion to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over any state law claims which have been asserted as part of the underlying action. 28 U.S.C. §1441(c) provides as follows:

“Whenever a separate and independent claim or cause of action within the jurisdiction conferred by §1331 of this Title, is joined within one or more otherwise non-removable claims or causes of action, the entire case may be removed and the district court may determine all issues therein, or, in its discretion, may remand all matters in which state law predominates.”

As such, Plaintiff’s claims for violations of the FCCPA have arisen out of the same factual

allegations as the claims under the FDCPA.

Demand For Jury Trial

Defendant demands trial by jury regarding any issues of fact and law that remain following the ruling on any dispositive motions filed herein. Defendant estimates that a trial will take 1-2 days.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, this Honorable Court should grant Defendant, Healthcare Revenue Recovery Group, LLC's Petition and enter an Order removing the entire case from the County Court, in and for Miami-Dade County, to the United States District Court, Southern District of Florida, Miami Division.

Dated this **20th day of April 2023.**

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ernest H. Kohlmyer

Ernest H. Kohlmyer, III, Esq., LL.M.

Florida Bar No. 110108

skohlmyer@shepardfirm.com

service@shepardfirm.com

Shepard, Smith, Kohlmyer & Hand, P.A.

2300 Maitland Center Parkway, Suite 100

Maitland, FL 32751

Telephone (407) 622-1772

Facsimile (407) 622-1884

Attorneys for Defendant, HRRG

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing has been electronically filed on **April 20, 2023**, with the Clerk of the Court by using the electronic filing system. I further certify that the foregoing has been sent via electronic transmission to the following:

Ismael Tijerino, Esquire at ismaeltijerino@jmflawyers.com, litigationsec5@jmflawyers.com, and spenceremison@jmflawyers.com (*Attorneys for Plaintiff*).

/s/ Ernest H. Kohlmyer, III

Ernest H. Kohlmyer, III, Esq., LL.M.

Florida Bar No.: 110108

skohlmyer@shepardfirm.com

service@shepardfirm.com

Shepard, Smith, Kohlmyer & Hand, P.A.

2300 Maitland Center Parkway, Suite 100

Maitland, Florida 32751

Telephone (407) 622-1772

Facsimile (407) 622-1884

Attorneys for Defendant, HRRG